

Service Date: November 30, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER Of The Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
Of Seeley Lake Gas Company For)	DOCKET NO. D96.8.136
Approval Of Initial Rates For Propane Service)	ORDER NO. 5947a
For The Town Of Seeley Lake.)	

* * * * *

FINAL ORDER

BACKGROUND

1. On August 16, 1996, Seeley Lake Gas Company (Applicant or SLG) filed an Application with the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission or PSC) for approval of initial rates for propane gas service to the Town of Seeley Lake (Seeley) from an underground vaporized propane system.

2. SLG filed proposed tariffs and schedules with residential and light residential rates, as well as an industrial rate. SLG requested approval of the rates and tariffs on either an interim or final basis.

3. On October 8, 1996, the Commission issued Interim Order No. 5947 approving the tariffs on an interim basis. As part of that Interim Order, the Commission ordered SLG to file cost information after operating the system for a period of one year.

4. On September 24, 1998, SLG filed the cost information with the Commission as ordered in Interim Order No. 5947. Based on its review of this information, the Commission issues this Final Order in this Docket.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND DISCUSSION

5. SLG's proposed tariff for Residential Service and light Residential Service for Seeley Lake, Montana includes a minimum customer service charge of \$5.50 per month with a commodity charge \$8.20 per million BTU (\$0.75 per gallon). The proposed tariff for Industrial Service includes a \$5.50 per month customer charge along with a commodity charge of \$7.42 per million BTU (\$0.68 per gallon).

6. The Commission finds that SLG's proposed rates for the propane system have a reasonable basis and hereby accepts them. SLG made a financial showing on September 24, 1998, demonstrating that the rates currently in effect are just and reasonable.

7. The Commission determines that this filing should be approved on a final basis.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Montana Public Service Commission is responsible for the supervision, regulation, and control of public utilities pursuant to the provisions of Title 69. Section 69-3-102, MCA.

2. Seeley Lake Gas Company is a public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Section 69-3-101, MCA.

3. The propane service offered to the Town of Seeley Lake is subject to the regulatory authority of the Commission.

4. Seeley Lake Gas Company is required to file with the Commission tariffs showing all rates, tolls and charges and all rules affecting rates to be charged. Section 69-3-301, MCA.

ORDER

1. Seeley Lake Gas Company must file tariffs pursuant to the directives in this Order. Seeley Lake Gas Company is granted authority, on a final basis, to charge for propane gas service in Seeley Lake, Montana.

2. The relief granted in this Order is to be effective immediately.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 24th day of November, 1998
by a 5-0 vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the PSC reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.